

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Porcelli on October 8, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 19, 20, and 25-28.

Claim 23, line 8, delete "or inputting".

Claim 23, line 10, delete "or inputting".

Claim 29, line 1, delete "method" and insert --methanol--.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 21-24 and 29 are allowed.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

WO 2003/107466, corresponding to Ryoichi et al (U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2005/0233186), is considered to be the closest prior art. The reference is concerned with preventing Ru elution from an anode to a liquid fuel, but does not teach or fairly suggest a method or means for detecting such elution, and then feeding back the elution detection in order to control the fuel concentration, operating temperature, or fuel cell output, as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Crepeau whose telephone number is (571) 272-1299. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Basia Ridley, can be reached at (571) 272-1453. The phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 272-1700. Documents may be faxed to the central fax server at (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Jonathan Crepeau/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795
October 22, 2009